

**The Right Position.**

The Mansfield Herald, in repelling certain assaults upon "Tom Ford," lieutenant governor of Ohio, lays down the following judicious and well-timed position, which cannot be too frequently repeated nor too well understood. It is the true republican ground:

"We understand republicanism to be the union or fusion of all political parties upon the common ground of opposition to the extension of slavery into the territories now free—or as it is aptly expressed by the Massachusetts republican convention: 'We require no conformity of opinion on other questions of national or state policy. No man surrendering or qualifying his opinions on those subjects. We all recognize the duty of making the question of freedom paramount. To secure unity of action here, we attempt no unity of opinion elsewhere.'

"No man in becoming a republican is required to renounce his former political opinions. If he be a tariff man, let him be a tariff man—if he be a free trade man, let him be a free trade man still—if a Know Nothing, let him be a Know Nothing still—all that is required to make him an orthodox republican is, to make the slavery question paramount to all others, and to be willing to unite with all men in restricting the confines of slavery to their present limits.

"Tried by the foregoing tests, Capt. Ford is all right as a republican. It is true he is an American, (undisguisedly so,) yet he has made, and continues to make, his Americanism subordinate to his republicanism, and so long as he maintains this position, we for one stand by him.

"Whenever Capt. Ford shall repudiate this position and make Americanism paramount to his republicanism, just so soon (however unpleasant it may be to do so,) we abandon him. We would (politically) repudiate a father who should prove recreant in the great contest for freedom now in progress."

The American Colonization Society has finally cleared itself of debt. It began the last year with an incubus of \$32,000, but has shaken it off. The rigid economy, however, which was necessary in order to effect this result, has curtailed operations in Liberia, and only three expeditions were sent out during the year. The last one, sent under the auspices of the New York state society, sailed from that port in December, taking 58 emigrants.

**GEN. HOUSTON'S HOUSE.**—A correspondent of the Urbana Citizen, traveling in Texas, says:—This afternoon we passed the farm and residence of Gen. Sam Houston. His house is rather a primitive affair, being a one-story, double hewed log cabin, with an entry between, a rough stone chimney at each end, a porch in front, surrounded by live oaks, negro cabins and sheds, and the whole enclosed by a crooked rail fence, showing a lack of order in the proprietor. His farm is partly in the town of Independence, a little dilapidated one-horse place, with some of its houses tumbling down, and the rest looking as though they had always been there.

**MERCER POTATOES.**—In the early part of the present century, John Gilky, one of the early settlers of Mercer co., Pa., produced from seed, the justly celebrated Mercer potato, which was afterwards cultivated by a Mr. Pearson, in the neighborhood of Darby, Delaware co., Pa., whence it spread over the Union. Thus Gilky, a poor solitary "exile of Erin," has done more to benefit mankind than many a hero of an hundred battles, and it has been proposed to immortalize his humble name by calling the "Mercers" from henceforward "Gilkies."

**SHARP RETORT.**

A keen Irish wit, and a Yankee more sly,  
In riding to town a gallows passed by,  
Quoth the Yankee to Pat, in a spirit of glee, [be?]  
"Give that gallows its due, and where would you  
"Troth," returned Pat, "that is easily shown,  
I'd be riding to town be meself all alone!"

**Oregon.**—The prospects of a long war in Oregon and Washington territories with the Indians, are of a serious character. By late advices from the Pacific coast, it would seem that the war spirit is quite general among the savage tribes, including all in the country on both sides of the Cascade mountains, with the exception of three or four small tribes. At least six thousand warriors have taken the field, and driven the settlers from their claims and farms into the villages and fortified places.

The Sandusky Register says that the land office commissioner at Washington City has received dispatches from the surveyor general of Washington territory, dated Olympia, Nov. 2, 1855, and which state that the surveying business, both in the field and in the office, is greatly impeded by the present general Indian war. All men of health and spirit in the territory are bearing arms against the savages. Three clerks in the surveyor general's office have laid aside the pen, shouldered their muskets and taken the field; and the surveyor general himself, in addition to his duties as surveyor general, has been performing duty as adjutant general to the volunteer forces of the territory, and, during the temporary absence of acting Gov. Mason, (then in Oregon, consulting with the governor of Oregon,) has been governor *pro tem.* of Washington territory.

Olympia is being fortified with stockades, garnished with bastions and the like, on which some small ship cannon are to be mounted. It is also stated that no surveys are progressing east of Puget Sound or on the Columbia river; that but one party is at work near Shoalwater bay, on the Pacific ocean; and that all the tribes who inhabit the shores of Puget Sound are vascillating, and will join the strongest party, as soon as they discover which party that is.

It is certain that there is blood to be shed in our Pacific possessions, and they claim the immediate attention of the government.

**ANOTHER SEMINOLE WAR.**—Late intelligence from Florida, brings tidings of a hostile character. An exploring party of U. S. officers and troops were making an examination of Big Cypress Swamp, near Fort Myers, when, on the 20th Dec., they were attacked by a party of Seminole Indians and seven of them killed.

**A HARD HIT.**—The Providence Tribune says a clergyman who supplied the desk of the Matthewson Street Church of that city by exchange or otherwise, a few Sundays since, after reading nearly a dozen notices, seeing some half dozen more before him, remarked that he supposed he must read them, as he was not in his own desk, but he thought it really wicked to "adopt that method of cheating the printer.

**TOM THUMB'S FATHER DEAD.**—The father of Gen. Tom Thumb, Mr. Stratton, who resided near Bridgeport, Conn., died last Friday evening. His mind has been partially disordered for some time. It is understood that he had acquired a large fortune by the exhibition of the little General, which will now be divided between the widow, the renowned dwarf and his two married sisters.—[N. Y. Sunday Times.

**THE PROPER USE OF THE EYES.**

Certain the eyes were not made to see with—  
No more than wives were made to be with,  
Or milk was sent us to drink tea with.  
Some sages hint they're formed to weep with,  
Others to cast a look like sheep with;  
It's my belief they're meant—to SLEEP WITH.

The carrier's address of the Fredonia Censor contains one verse which we regard as especially pungent. It runs thus:

As one upon a mountain height,  
From those below is hid,  
Pierce fades from view—the apex he,  
Of our broad pyramid.  
Like pillars grand, our statesmen old,  
Were wont the state to prop—  
But modern presidents are used  
To taper out the top.

**A REVOLUTION IN ICARIA.**—By a late number of the Revue Icarienne we learn that Mons. Cabet has got into trouble with his community at Nauvoo. He has lately submitted a series of propositions revising and modifying the constitution of the community, and placing autocratic power in the hands of the president, who is to be elected once in four years. A party of malcontents opposed this movement, and set up a secret society to overthrow M. Cabet, in which endeavor they had not been successful at the last accounts. They called him very bad names, and compared his action to the *coup d'état* of Napoleon III. The matter had not been settled, but Cabet was firm, and a grand ball was in progress.

You may, says an exchange, insert a thousand excellent things in a newspaper, and never hear one kind word of approbation from readers; but just let a paragraph slip in, even one or two lines, that is not exactly in good taste, and you may be sure of hearing about that.

**PLUCKY.**—The editor of the Ilion Independent is a brick. Hear him:

The editor of the Social Visitor speaks of us as a reformed dentist, and volunteers a little advice, suggesting that we let politics alone and stick to our profession. We beg to inform the gentleman that we pull teeth at the usual rates, and the noses of impertinent meddlers for nothing.

**THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**—There are in the English language 20,500 nouns, 40 pronouns, 9,200 adjectives, 8,000 verbs, 2,600 adverbs, 69 prepositions, 19 conjunctions, 68 interjections, and 2 articles—in all above 40,000 words. According to Webster's Dictionary there are 100,000 words.

There are 59 churches and other places of worship in Chicago, at which the average attendance is 150—or 10,525 regular attendants at church every Sabbath. There are also over one thousand rum shops open every Sunday, at which the regular attendants amount to 50 per cent. more than those who attend church, or 15,045 suckers.

**"WHERE DO THE SPONGES GO?"**—They are too large to be concealed, and too remarkable to be overlooked; and yet, year after year, we are shipping from twenty to thirty tons of sponges—or about 25,000,000 of separate sponges to the New York market—without any knowledge of what becomes of them. We have seen cloth, hats, and shoes—all said to be made of sponge, but we don't believe a word of it. The demand and the price for this article have been steadily increasing with the supply. Twelve and a half cents per pound were given for them five years ago, and now, though the quantity shipped has steadily increased, forty cents per pound are readily obtained, and the demand increases. The value of the last year's shipment has been \$15,000.—[Key West (Florida) Key of the Gulf.

**HOW TO DRIVE OFF A CROWD OF LADIES.**—At Boulogne, during the reception of her Majesty, a number of English ladies, in their anxiety to see everything, pressed with such force against the soldiers who were keeping line, that the latter were, in some instances, obliged to give way, and generally were—to use the expression of our policemen—"impeded in the execution of their duty." The officer in command, seeing the state of affairs, "One roll of the drum; then if they don't keep back, kiss them all!" At the first sound on the parchment, the English ladies took flight. "If they had been French," says a Parisian journal, "they would have remained to a woman."

**A FEMALE BISHOP AND HER CONGREGATION.**—The Washington Union says that Mrs. Bishop, already the mother of thirteen children, gave birth last Wednesday to three more.